Page 1

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA + + + + +

## ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD

+ + + + + MEETING

IN THE MATTER OF:

Credence, LLC t/a Legends 1836 Columbia Road, NW Retailer CR - ANC-1C License No. 86083

Fact-Finding Hearing

(License in Extended Safekeeping)

May 1, 2014

The Alcoholic Beverage Control
Board met in the Alcoholic Beverage Control
Hearing Room, Reeves Building, 2000 14th
Street, N.W., Suite 400S, Washington, D.C.
20009, Chairperson Ruthanne Miller, presiding.

## PRESENT:

RUTHANNE MILLER, Chairperson NICK ALBERTI, Member HERMAN JONES, Member MIKE SILVERSTEIN, Member HECTOR RODRIGUEZ, Member

	Page 2
1	P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S
2	(5:13 p.m.)
3	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Our 5:00
4	Fact-Finding Hearing concerns Legends. Is
5	somebody here for Legends? Okay. Okay. Our
6	5:00 is Legends and the licensee isn't here,
7	in which we could hear from Mr. Gordy again or
8	we can pass and take our 5:30.
9	MEMBER ALBERTI: Let's
10	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Mr. Gordy, do
11	you want to come
12	MEMBER JONES: Mr. Gordy, would
13	you come up here, please?
14	MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes, Mr. Gordy?
15	MEMBER JONES: Mr. Gordy?
16	MR. GORDY: Yes.
17	MEMBER JONES: Would you mind
18	coming up here again, please?
19	MEMBER ALBERTI: I have no
20	problem.
21	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: We haven't
22	heard from the licensee that they are on their

	Page 3
1	way or anything, I gather, right? Okay.
2	So I've called the Legends case.
3	I wonder if you could identify yourself for
4	the record again?
5	MR. GORDY: Sure.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
7	MR. GORDY: My name is Sean Gordy.
8	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. And
9	your position with the Agency?
10	MR. GORDY: And I am the Licensing
11	Division Manager for Alcoholic Beverage
12	Regulation Administration.
13	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Sir,
14	are you prepared to address, at this time, the
15	license in safekeeping for Legends?
16	MR. GORDY: Yes.
17	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. All
18	right. Is it correct that it has been in
19	safekeeping since July of 2005?
20	MR. GORDY: That is correct.
21	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I
22	think this one we had a Fact-Finding Hearing

	Page 4
1	with the licensee on that case and the
2	licensee indicated that there was going to be
3	a transfer application coming in to the Agency
4	for this license.
5	Are you familiar with whether or
6	not that occurred?
7	MR. GORDY: Yes, it has.
8	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: It has
9	occurred?
LO	MR. GORDY: Yes.
L1	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Do you
L2	know
L3	MR. GORDY: Actually, at least
L <b>4</b>	according to our records, it initially went
L5	into safekeeping as part of a transfer. And
L6	it was a transfer as a result of a landlord
L7	agreement.
L8	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. So but
L9	it went into safekeeping in 2005, but then
20	just this year we heard that there was going
21	to be a transfer application?
22	MR. GORDY: Right, but we have

Page 5 1 none. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh. You 2 haven't seen that one? 3 MR. GORDY: Right. 4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay. 5 So that's what we were looking for. 6 MEMBER ALBERTI: Madam Chair? 7 Ιt was on May 22, 2013 that we held a Fact-8 9 Finding at which the representative of the 10 current license holder was here and another 11 party, a representative for a party representing themselves as a perspective 12 13 owner/transferee of the license was also 14 present. And at that time, the parties 15 represented to us that there would be a 16 17 transfer application and with a lease agreement that was about to be very soon 18 finalized. So I think -- Mr. Gordy, am I 19 20 correct that since May 22, 2013, we have not seen a transfer application for this? Is that 21 correct? 22

Page 6 1 MR. GORDY: Actually, since May 22, 2013, our system reflects there is a 2 3 transferee application that was pending or is pending and Acela, the system that we use, 4 reflects the transfer to a new location, but 5 doesn't indicate the source of the license or 6 the --7 8 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. MR. GORDY: -- application itself 9 10 has just -- has been pending since then. 11 MEMBER ALBERTI: What does that 12 mean? 13 MR. GORDY: That means that there 14 is either -- there was an application or at least an interest to transfer the application 15 of some sort. We don't know what type of 16 transfer, be it voluntary, involuntary, but as 17 a result, it remains pending as there is not 18 enough additional information to transfer. 19 20 MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. Do your 21 records reflect whether you have received any documents, such as, I mean, if it was 22

	Page 7
1	transferred to a new location, a lease
2	agreement
3	MR. GORDY: No.
4	MEMBER ALBERTI: or C of O or
5	something? Have you received any of that
6	information?
7	MR. GORDY: No.
8	MEMBER ALBERTI: So your so
9	this Agency has not received a lease agreement
10	between the parties?
11	MR. GORDY: Correct.
12	MEMBER ALBERTI: As promised in
13	May 22, 2013?
14	MR. GORDY: Correct.
15	MEMBER ALBERTI: And they were
16	very clear that it was the lease agreement,
17	the settlement and lease agreement was in that
18	and that they would be finalizing a transfer
19	application or moving forward to finalize a
20	transfer application on that date and we have
21	a transcript which we can refer to.
22	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, I mean,

	Page 8
1	I do see Mr. Kline made a representation that
2	they would be filing a transfer application
3	within the next two weeks, so it sounds like
4	there was an application filed. It's just
5	what, not complete?
6	MR. GORDY: Right. The system
7	reflects the application as being pending, so
8	incomplete.
9	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Incomplete.
10	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Does the
11	Agency ever follow-up with an applicant when
12	the application is incomplete?
13	MR. GORDY: We do.
14	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: You do.
15	Okay. So did you follow-up with this
16	licensee?
17	MR. GORDY: Yes. In fact, we
18	have.
19	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And what were
21	the results?
22	MR. GORDY: Still pending.

Page 9

MEMBER ALBERTI: And I will tell
you, I'm reading from the transcript, Mr.
Kline says "I have also represented to you
that it is my belief that the parties will be
finalizing a lease agreement, and if it
doesn't happen, then again your concerns might
be justified."

In the context of the transcript, it was certainly my impression that when he said they will be finalizing it, he was implying in a very short term. And if you look at the whole transcript, I think you will find that that's clear, because we were, at that time, having them here asking them why -- what their plans were for putting this license back into operation.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So, Mr.

Gordy, did you get any specifics when you asked about the pending application? Like when is the rest of it coming in or anything like that?

MR. GORDY: No, not to my

Page 10 1 knowledge. CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Did you do it 2 3 personally or your staff? MR. GORDY: Staff. 4 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh, okay. 5 6 Okay. MEMBER ALBERTI: 7 So you --8 CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And when was 9 that? 10 MEMBER ALBERTI: Oh, yeah. 11 MR. GORDY: The license, I believe, was as we -- because the license has 12 13 been extended so many times --CHAIRPERSON MILLER: 14 Um-hum. MR. GORDY: -- then, of course, 15 16 periodically the second, third year payments 17 are due. The license is still responsible for maintaining the license while in safekeeping. 18 And at least since my arrival, I have had a 19 review of the safekeeping list to have staff 20 reach out to licensees or those who hold the 21 22 licenses in safekeeping to try to get movement

	Page 11
1	on the license or understanding a baseline of
2	where we stand with the application.
3	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Good.
4	And where do they stand with their payments,
5	do you know? Are they current? Have they
6	been paying?
7	MR. GORDY: Give me one moment,
8	please. I do not believe they have paid.
9	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
10	MEMBER ALBERTI: Mr. Gordy, I want
11	to make sure I understand. So when is the
12	last time your staff reached out to the owner
13	or their representative? Do you know?
14	MR. GORDY: I think our last
15	hearing would be was May 22, 2013. I think
16	that they were due or an extension, a review
17	of that extension from last May was due May
18	21, 2014 of this year.
19	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay. So you
20	haven't talked they haven't no one has
21	contacted them since?
22	MR. GORDY: Right.

	Page 12
1	MEMBER ALBERTI: Okay.
2	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well, they
3	probably were contacted for this hearing
4	though.
5	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, they were
6	contacted for this hearing. The licensee
7	didn't
8	MR. GORDY: For the hearing.
9	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah.
10	MEMBER ALBERTI: Other than that.
11	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
12	MEMBER ALBERTI: But they haven't
13	responded to this hearing and they haven't
14	submitted any additional documents.
15	MR. GORDY: Right.
16	MEMBER ALBERTI: How did you
17	contact them for this hearing?
18	MR. GORDY: A letter. The letter
19	sent by our Adjudication Committee.
20	MEMBER ALBERTI: To?
21	MR. GORDY: To
22	MEMBER ALBERTI: To the owner?

	Page 13
1	MR. GORDY: Yes.
2	MEMBER ALBERTI: Was the
3	representative from 2013 notified?
4	MR. GORDY: (No audible answer.)
5	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, you know,
6	Madam Chair, at this time, my recommendation
7	would be to cancel this license, since they
8	haven't shown up and give the licensee 10 days
9	in which to file an appeal.
10	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: I guess I was
11	thinking similarly, but not quite. Like send
12	them a notice of our intent to cancel and give
13	them a chance to respond within, you know
14	MR. GORDY: 30.
15	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: 30 days or
16	something. Right. Because they
17	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I think this
18	is such an extraordinary step, I would prefer
19	30.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah, yeah.
21	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: But just
22	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, I mean,

	Page 14
1	we
2	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: This is
3	MEMBER ALBERTI: here is what I
4	was thinking.
5	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Yes.
6	MEMBER ALBERTI: If we cancel the
7	license and they respond in send us an
8	appeal within 10 days, all right, then we
9	could hear it. We could then schedule a Fact-
10	Finding Hearing to consider that appeal. And
11	if they can present us, at that time, with
12	justification for why we shouldn't cancel the
13	license, then I think that's fair.
14	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yeah.
15	MEMBER JONES: With all due
16	respect, the licensee was represented by
17	counsel. The counsel made promises on their
18	behalf and they were my understanding is
19	that they received notice of today's hearing.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But we don't
21	know that they received it.
22	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, they were

	Page 15
1	sent a letter.
2	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: We know they
3	were
4	MEMBER JONES: My understanding is
5	that they received notice of today's hearing.
6	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Oh really?
7	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: They were
8	sent a letter.
9	MEMBER JONES: And they were sent
10	a letter.
11	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Did they sign
12	for it?
13	MEMBER JONES: They were sent a
14	letter.
15	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right. They
16	were sent it. We don't know that they
17	received it.
18	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, we will
19	make sure that the cancellation is signed for,
20	that it goes to their attorney and that will
21	put them on notice.
22	MEMBER JONES: Yes.

	Page 16
1	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Well
2	MEMBER ALBERTI: I just think that
3	that's, I mean, the most efficient way to deal
4	with this problem.
5	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree, but
6	there is a difference between the 10 days that
7	a protestant in an active protest where they
8	are up and you know who to contact and the
9	situation like this. It may be a little more
10	murky.
11	MEMBER JONES: I have no issue
12	with that. I just
13	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Just I would
14	feel more comfortable with 30 days because of
15	the severity of what is going on here.
16	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, 30 days for
17	what?
18	MEMBER JONES: My only issue with
19	that is that
20	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: That they be
21	given 30 days to respond.
22	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: To respond.

	Page 17
1	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Madam Chair?
2	MEMBER JONES: The licensee was
3	put on notice when they appeared before us
4	before.
5	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: That was over
6	a year ago.
7	MEMBER JONES: Yes, they were put
8	on notice
9	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Notice.
10	MEMBER JONES: that they could
11	be canceled.
12	MEMBER ALBERTI: Have you read the
13	transcript? Read the transcript, please, it
14	was very clear in that transcript
15	MEMBER JONES: It is clear. There
16	is no ambiguity.
17	MEMBER ALBERTI: Right. There is
18	no ambiguity.
19	MEMBER JONES: Neither arbitrary
20	or capricious in how we made our statements to
21	the attorney.
22	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: I agree

	Page 18
1	completely.
2	MEMBER JONES: Okay.
3	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Should we
4	discuss this back there?
5	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: We expected
6	them to come in very shortly with a lease and
7	with the transfer.
8	MEMBER JONES: Well, that wasn't
9	our expectations. That was their promise to
10	us.
11	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Exactly.
12	MEMBER JONES: That was their
13	promise.
14	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay.
15	MEMBER ALBERTI: That was their
16	promise to us.
17	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. I
18	don't know that we said that they were then
19	going to be canceled.
20	MR. GORDY: Excuse me, might I
21	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: In the
22	transcript. I don't see it.

	Page 19
1	MEMBER JONES: Mr. Gordy?
2	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.
3	MR. GORDY: Might I just add that
4	the pending status was due to there was we
5	had not received a purchase nor sale agreement
6	and that's what kept the application in flux.
7	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.
8	MR. GORDY: Pending.
9	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.
10	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: One question I
11	have,
12	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes, Mr.
13	Rodriguez?
14	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Madam Chair,
15	is how we are to be sure that counsel is still
16	representing this party?
17	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Right.
18	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: If we contacted
19	the counsel, how can we be assured that they
20	are still representing this party?
21	MEMBER ALBERTI: Well, if we do a
22	cancellation when then we will do personal

Page 20

service. We don't do personal service on other notifications. But so one way of making sure that this person gets it, and we are guaranteed that we know that they get it, is to cancel the license. They will be served personally. They will have to sign for it and then this Board will know that that person knows about it. They will have 10 days to respond.

MEMBER JONES: Is there any consideration for cancellation within 10 days pending confirmation of receipt of notice of said hearing for today? Because that seems to be the only question or consideration --

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Yes.

MEMBER JONES: -- that is in limbo is whether or not --

MEMBER ALBERTI: Yes. So, Board
Member Silverstein, do you want to give them
30 days to appeal?

MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MILLER: But I would

	Page 21
1	rather we not cancel
2	MEMBER ALBERTI: Cancel it and
3	then appeal in 30 days? I am willing to give
4	them 30 days to appeal. We cancel the license
5	and give them 30 days to appeal.
6	MEMBER JONES: I'll accept that,
7	Mr. Silverstein.
8	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: So I'm not
9	sure that we have reinstated licenses that
10	have been canceled and I would really rather
11	not
12	MEMBER ALBERTI: We do it all the
13	time.
14	MEMBER JONES: We have done so.
15	MEMBER ALBERTI: We do it all the
16	time.
17	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: We do it all
18	the time? I don't
19	MEMBER JONES: Our legal counsel
20	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: On a regular
21	basis.
22	MEMBER JONES: just responded

	Page 23
1	difference is you want to cancel it and all
2	I'm saying is 30 days, give them notice that
3	we intend to cancel.
4	MEMBER JONES: So
5	MEMBER ALBERTI: I understand. I
6	understand.
7	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Any
8	other comments on that motion?
9	MEMBER JONES: No.
10	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Okay. Then
11	there has been a motion that has been
12	seconded.
13	All those in favor say aye.
14	MEMBER ALBERTI: Aye.
15	MEMBER JONES: Aye.
16	MEMBER SILVERSTEIN: Aye.
17	MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.
18	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All those
19	opposed? Opposed. All those abstaining? So
20	the vote is 4-1-0. Okay.
21	So that means that the Board will
22	be issuing an order canceling the license and

	Page 24
1	notifying, at least, the licensee. I guess
2	there is another party here that we were aware
3	of, but I'm not sure if we notify them or not.
4	MEMBER ALBERTI: I think our
5	policy is to serve it on the licensee. And
6	they have to sign for it, so we will have
7	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: Good.
8	MEMBER ALBERTI: I mean, we will
9	deal with it. If we don't you know, if
10	service isn't successful, we will deal with it
11	then, but our policy is to serve it and have
12	the licensee sign for it.
13	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: And have 30
14	days to
15	MEMBER ALBERTI: 30 days to
16	appeal.
17	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: appeal the
18	cancellation. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Gordy.
19	MR. GORDY: You're welcome.
20	CHAIRPERSON MILLER: All right.
21	(Whereupon, the Fact-Finding
22	hearing in the above-entitled matter was

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						Page	25
1	concluded	at	5:30	p.m.)			
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Neal R. Gross and Co., Inc. (202) 234-4433

<u> </u>	6:15 7:19,20 8:2,4	1:15 2:3,10,21 3:6	D	finalize 7:19
above-entitled	8:7,12 9:19 11:2	3:8,13,17,21 4:8	<b>D.C</b> 1:13	finalized 5:19
24:22	19:6	4:11,18 5:2,5 7:22	date 7:20	finalizing 7:18 9:5
abstaining 23:19	arbitrary 17:19	8:10,14,20 9:17	days 13:8,15 14:8	9:10
accept 21:6	arrival 10:19	10:2,5,8,14 11:3,9	16:6,14,16,21	<b>find</b> 9:13
Acela 6:4	<b>asked</b> 9:19	12:2,9,11 13:10	20:8,11,20 21:3,4	<b>Finding</b> 1:6 5:9
active 16:7	asking 9:14	13:15,20 14:14,20	21:5 22:17 23:2	14:10
add 19:3	assured 19:19	15:2,6,15 16:1,22	24:14,15	<b>flux</b> 19:6
add 17.3 additional 6:19	attorney 15:20	18:5,14,17,21	deal 16:3 24:9,10	<b>follow-up</b> 8:11,15
12:14	17:21	19:2,7,9,12,17	decision 22:18	forward 7:19
address 3:14	audible 13:4	20:15,22 21:8,17	desist 22:6	
Adjudication 12:19	aware 24:2	22:2,10,22 23:7	difference 16:6	G
Administration	aye 23:13,14,15,16	23:10,18 24:7,13	23:1	gather 3:1
3:12	23:17	24:17,20	discuss 18:4	give 11:7 13:8,12
<b>Agency</b> 3:9 4:3 7:9		chance 13:13	DISTRICT 1:1	20:19 21:3,5
8:11	B	<b>clear</b> 7:16 9:13	Division 3:11	22:17 23:2
<b>ago</b> 17:6	back 9:16 18:4	17:14,15	documents 6:22	given 16:21
agree 16:5 17:22	baseline 11:1	Columbia 1:1,6	12:14	goes 15:20
agreement 4:17	<b>basis</b> 21:21	come 2:11,13 18:6	dozen 22:6	going 4:2,20 16:15
5:18 7:2,9,16,17	<b>behalf</b> 14:18	22:8	due 10:17 11:16,17	18:19
9:5 19:5	belief 9:4	comfortable 16:14	14:15 19:4	Good 11:3 24:7
<b>ALBERTI</b> 1:16 2:9	<b>believe</b> 10:12 11:8	<b>coming</b> 2:18 4:3	14.13 17.4	Gordy 2:7,10,12,14
2:14,19 5:7 6:8,11	<b>Beverage</b> 1:2,11,12	9:20	E	2:15,16 3:5,7,7,10
6:20 7:4,8,12,15	3:11	comments 23:8	efficient 16:3	3:16,20 4:7,10,13
8:19 9:1 10:7,10	<b>Board</b> 1:2,12 20:7	Committee 12:19	either 6:14	4:22 5:4,19 6:1,9
11:10,19 12:1,5	20:18 23:21	complete 8:5	Exactly 18:11	6:13 7:3,7,11,14
12:10,12,16,20,22	<b>Building</b> 1:12	completely 18:1	Excuse 18:20	8:6,13,17,22 9:18
13:2,5,22 14:3,6		concerns 2:4 9:6	expectations 18:9	9:22 10:4,11,15
14:22 15:18 16:2	C	concluded 25:1	expected 18:5	11:7,10,14,22
16:16 17:12,17	C 7:4	confirmation 20:12	<b>extended</b> 1:8 10:13	12:8,15,18,21
18:15 19:21 20:18	called 3:2	consider 14:10	<b>extension</b> 11:16,17	13:1,4,14 18:20
21:2,12,15 22:4	cancel 13:7,12 14:6	consideration	extraordinary	19:1,3,8 24:18,19
22:12,15,20 23:5	14:12 20:5 21:1,2	20:11,14	13:18	guaranteed 20:4
23:14 24:4,8,15	21:4 22:16 23:1,3	contact 12:17 16:8		guess 13:10 24:1
<b>Alcoholic</b> 1:2,11,12	canceled 17:11	contacted 11:21	F	
3:11	18:19 21:10	12:3,6 19:18	<b>fact</b> 1:6 5:8 8:17	<u>H</u>
<b>ambiguity</b> 17:16,18	canceling 23:22	context 9:8	14:9	happen 9:6
ANC-1C 1:7	cancellation 15:19	<b>Control</b> 1:2,11,12	Fact-Finding 2:4	hear 2:7 14:9
answer 13:4	19:22 20:11 22:17	correct 3:18,20	3:22 24:21	heard 2:22 4:20
appeal 13:9 14:8,10	24:18	5:20,22 7:11,14	<b>fair</b> 14:13	hearing 1:7,12 2:4
20:20 21:3,4,5	capricious 17:20	counsel 14:17,17	familiar 4:5	3:22 11:15 12:3,6
22:18 24:16,17	case 3:2 4:1	19:15,19 21:19	<b>favor</b> 23:13	12:8,13,17 14:10
appeared 17:3	cease 22:6	<b>course</b> 10:15	<b>feel</b> 16:14	14:19 15:5 20:13
applicant 8:11	certainly 9:9	<b>CR</b> 1:7	fees 22:8	24:22
application 4:3,21	Chair 5:7 13:6 17:1	Credence 1:5	<b>file</b> 13:9	<b>HECTOR</b> 1:17
5:17,21 6:3,9,14	19:14 22:4,21	<b>current</b> 5:10 11:5	filed 8:4	held 5:8
	Chairperson 1:13	22:8	filing 8:2	<b>HERMAN</b> 1:16
			<u> </u>	<u> </u>

<b>hold</b> 10:21	lease 5:17 7:1,9,16	11:10,19 12:1,5	<b>NICK</b> 1:16	periodically 10:16
holder 5:10	7:17 9:5 18:6	12:10,12,16,20,22	<b>notice</b> 13:12 14:19	person 20:3,7
	legal 21:19	13:2,5,17,21,22	15:5,21 17:3,8,9	personal 19:22
I	<b>Legends</b> 1:6 2:4,5,6	14:2,3,5,6,15,22	20:12 22:17 23:2	20:1
identify 3:3	3:2,15	15:4,7,9,11,13,18	notifications 20:2	personally 10:3
implying 9:11	Let's 2:9	15:22 16:2,5,11	notified 13:3	20:6
impression 9:9	letter 12:18,18 15:1	16:13,16,18,20	notify 24:3	perspective 5:12
<b>incomplete</b> 8:8,9,12	15:8,10,14	17:1,2,5,7,9,10,12	notifying 24:1	plans 9:15
indicate 6:6	license 1:7,8 3:15	17:15,17,19,22	NW 1:6	please 2:13,18 11:8
indicated 4:2	4:4 5:10,13 6:6	18:2,3,8,11,12,15		17:13
information 6:19	9:15 10:11,12,17	19:1,10,14,18,21	0	policy 24:5,11
7:6	10:18 11:1 13:7	20:10,16,18,19,21	<b>O</b> 7:4	position 3:9
initially 4:14	14:7,13 20:5 21:4	21:2,6,12,14,15	occurred 4:6,9	prefer 13:18
intend 23:3	22:16 23:22	21:19,20,22 22:4	<b>Oh</b> 5:2,5 10:5,10	prepared 3:14
<b>intent</b> 13:12	licensee 2:6,22 4:1	22:12,14,15,19,20	15:6	22:13
interest 6:15	4:2 8:16 12:6	23:4,5,9,14,15,16	okay 2:5,5 3:1,6,8	present 1:14 5:14
involuntary 6:17	13:8 14:16 17:2	23:17 24:4,8,15	3:13,17,21 4:11	14:11
<b>issue</b> 16:11,18	24:1,5,12	met 1:12	4:18 5:5 6:8,20	presiding 1:13
issuing 23:22	licensees 10:21	MIKE 1:17	8:15,19 10:5,6	probably 12:3
	licenses 10:22 21:9	<b>Miller</b> 1:13,15 2:3	11:3,9,19 12:1,11	<b>problem</b> 2:20 16:4
J	22:9	2:10,21 3:6,8,13	18:2,14,17 22:12	22:3
<b>JONES</b> 1:16 2:12	Licensing 3:10	3:17,21 4:8,11,18	23:7,10,20 24:18	<b>promise</b> 18:9,13,16
2:15,17 14:15	limbo 20:16	5:2,5 7:22 8:10,14	operation 9:16	promised 7:12
15:4,9,13,22	list 10:20	8:20 9:17 10:2,5,8	<b>opposed</b> 23:19,19	promises 14:17
16:11,18 17:2,7	little 16:9	10:14 11:3,9 12:2	order 23:22	protest 16:7
17:10,15,19 18:2	LLC 1:5	12:9,11 13:10,15	orders 22:7	protestant 16:7
18:8,12 19:1	<b>location</b> 6:5 7:1	13:20 14:14,20	owner 11:12 12:22	purchase 19:5
20:10,16 21:6,14	look 9:12	15:2,6,15 16:1,22	owner/transferee	put 15:21 17:3,7
21:19,22 22:14,19	looking 5:6	18:5,14,17,21	5:13	putting 9:15
23:4,9,15		19:2,7,9,12,17		
<b>July</b> 3:19	M	20:15,22 21:8,17	<u>P</u>	Q
justification 14:12	<b>Madam</b> 5:7 13:6	22:2,10,22 23:7	P-R-O-C-E-E-D	question 19:10
justified 9:7	17:1 19:14 22:4	23:10,18 24:7,13	2:1	20:14
K	22:21	24:17,20	<b>p.m</b> 2:2 25:1	<b>quite</b> 13:11
	maintaining 10:18	<b>mind</b> 2:17	paid 11:8	
<b>kept</b> 19:6 <b>Kline</b> 8:1 9:3	making 20:2	moment 11:7	part 4:15	R
know 4:12 6:16	Manager 3:11	motion 22:13,16	parties 5:15 7:10	reach 10:21
	matter 1:4 24:22	23:8,11	9:4	reached 11:12
11:5,13 13:5,13	mean 6:12,22 7:22	movement 10:22	party 5:11,11 19:16	read 17:12,13
14:21 15:2,16	13:22 16:3 24:8	<b>moving</b> 7:19	19:20 22:5 24:2	reading 9:2
16:8 18:18 20:4,7 24:9	means 6:13 23:21	murky 16:10	pass 2:8	really 15:6 21:10
knowledge 10:1	<b>MEETING</b> 1:3		paying 11:6	receipt 20:12
knows 20:8	<b>Member</b> 1:16,16,17	<u>N</u>	payments 10:16	received 6:21 7:5,9
MIUWS 20.0	1:17 2:9,12,14,15	<b>N.W</b> 1:13	11:4	14:19,21 15:5,17
L	2:17,19 5:7 6:8,11	<b>name</b> 3:7	pending 6:3,4,10	19:5
landlord 4:16	6:20 7:4,8,12,15	Neither 17:19	6:18 8:7,22 9:19	recommendation
	8:9,19 9:1 10:7,10	new 6:5 7:1	19:4,8 20:12	13:6
	l		l	I

,	1	Ī	l	l
record 3:4	saying 22:11 23:2	successful 24:10	V	16:14,16,21 20:20
records 4:14 6:21	<b>says</b> 9:3	<b>Suite</b> 1:13	voluntary 6:17	21:3,4,5 22:17
Reeves 1:12	schedule 14:9	sure 3:5 11:11	vote 22:21 23:20	23:2 24:13,15
<b>refer</b> 7:21	<b>Sean</b> 3:7	15:19 19:15 20:3		
reflect 6:21	second 10:16 22:19	21:9 24:3	W	4
reflects 6:2,5 8:7	seconded 23:12	system 6:2,4 8:6	want 2:11 11:10	<b>4-1-0</b> 23:20
regular 21:20	see 8:1 18:22		20:19 22:20 23:1	<b>400S</b> 1:13
Regulation 3:12	seen 5:3,21	T	Washington 1:13	5
reinstate 22:7,9	send 13:11 14:7	<b>t/a</b> 1:6	wasn't 18:8	
reinstated 21:9	sent 12:19 15:1,8,9	take 2:8 22:21	way 3:1 16:3 20:2	<b>5:00</b> 2:3,6
remains 6:18	15:13,16	talked 11:20	weeks 8:3	<b>5:13</b> 2:2
remember 22:11	serve 24:5,11	<b>tell</b> 9:1	welcome 24:19	<b>5:30</b> 2:8 25:1
representation 8:1	served 20:5	<b>term</b> 9:11	went 4:14,19	6
representative 5:9	<b>service</b> 20:1,1	<b>Thank</b> 22:14 24:18	willing 21:3	
5:11 11:13 13:3	24:10	think 3:22 5:19	wonder 3:3	7
represented 5:16	settlement 7:17	9:12 11:14,15		
9:3 14:16	severity 16:15	13:17 14:13 16:2	X	8
representing 5:12	<b>short</b> 9:11	24:4	<b>T</b> 7	<b>86083</b> 1:7
19:16,20	shortly 18:6	thinking 13:11	<u>Y</u>	
respect 14:16	<b>shown</b> 13:8	14:4	yeah 10:10 12:9	
<b>respond</b> 13:13 14:7	sign 15:11 20:6	<b>third</b> 10:16	13:20,20 14:14	
16:21,22 20:9	24:6,12	time 3:14 5:15 9:14	year 4:20 10:16	
responded 12:13	signed 15:19	11:12 13:6 14:11	11:18 17:6	
21:22	signing 22:5	21:13,16,18	$\overline{\mathbf{z}}$	
responsible 10:17	Silverstein 1:17	times 10:13		
rest 9:20	13:17,21 14:2,5	today 20:13	0	
result 4:16 6:18	15:7,11 16:5,13	today's 14:19 15:5		
results 8:21	16:20 17:5,9,22	transcript 7:21 9:2	1	
Retailer 1:7	18:11 20:19,21	9:8,12 17:13,13	<b>1</b> 1:10	
review 10:20 11:16	21:7,20 23:16	17:14 18:22	<b>10</b> 13:8 14:8 16:6	
<b>right</b> 3:1,18 4:22	similarly 13:11	transfer 4:3,15,16	20:8,11	
5:4 8:6 11:22	<b>Sir</b> 3:13	4:21 5:17,21 6:5	14th 1:12	
12:15 13:16 14:8	situation 16:9	6:15,17,19 7:18	<b>1836</b> 1:6	
15:15 17:17 19:7	somebody 2:5	7:20 8:2 18:7		
19:9,17 24:20	soon 5:18	transferee 6:3	2	
<b>Road</b> 1:6	<b>sort</b> 6:16	transferred 7:1	<b>2000</b> 1:12	
Rodriguez 1:17 8:9	sounds 8:3	try 10:22	<b>20009</b> 1:13	
17:1 18:3 19:10	source 6:6	two 8:3	<b>2005</b> 3:19 4:19	
19:13,14,18 23:17	specifics 9:18	<b>type</b> 6:16	<b>2013</b> 5:8,20 6:2	
<b>Room</b> 1:12	<b>staff</b> 10:3,4,20		7:13 11:15 13:3	
<b>Ruthanne</b> 1:13,15	11:12	U U I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	<b>2014</b> 1:10 11:18	
	<b>stand</b> 11:2,4	Um-hum 10:14	<b>21</b> 11:18	
<u>S</u>	statements 17:20	understand 11:11	<b>22</b> 5:8,20 6:2 7:13	
safekeeping 1:9	status 19:4	22:10 23:5,6	11:15	
3:15,19 4:15,19	<b>step</b> 13:18	understanding		
10:18,20,22	المالية	11:1 14:18 15:4	3	
	Street 1:13			
<b>sale</b> 19:5	Street 1:13 submitted 12:14	use 6:4	<b>30</b> 13:14,15,19	